

### *Artesia VA Health Clinic Renamed for WWII Veteran*

Washington, DC – Today, the House of Representatives passed legislation, introduced by Congressman Harry Teague, to rename the Artesia VA community based outpatient center (CBOC) in honor of Sgt. Alejandro Renteria Ruiz. Ruiz was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government, for his bravery in World War II.

“Sgt. Ruiz was a member of the Greatest Generation. As that generation grows older and many of them leave this earth, it is important that their sacrifices, their acts of heroism, their accomplishments, and of course their names are not forgotten,” Harry Teague said in a statement on the House floor. “It would be a great mistake for us to forget how the lives we live today, the freedoms we cherish, and the comforts we enjoy were earned by the heroism of Sgt Ruiz, the blood of his fellow soldiers, and the sacrifice of an entire nation.”

To see Harry Teague’s full speech on the House floor, please [click here](#) .

As a member of the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Ruiz served during the Allied invasion of Okinawa, the largest amphibious operation in the Pacific. President Harry Truman awarded him the Medal of Honor in 1946 after Ruiz, displaying extraordinary bravery under machine gun fire, overtook the enemy and saved the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Teague has made veterans’ issues a top priority since he was elected to Congress, helping to secure advanced appropriations funding for the VA and introducing legislation aimed at addressing and reducing the impact of mental health issues like PTSD have on the lives of returning veterans. He has also worked to build awareness of veterans’ issues by honoring service members and veterans with programs like the “Veteran of the Month”.

